

# For God, Country --And the IPP!



Arthur Hoppe

**I**T WAS that patriotic conglomerate, The International Peanuts & Popcorn Corporation, better known as IPP, which changed the drift of American diplomacy.

As historians will remember, IPP first broke into the news when that known columnist, Andy Jackerson, obtained a top-secret memo from IPP's tough Washington lobbyist, Dita Whiskers.

"Good news!" Ms. Whiskers wrote IPP President, Geneen (Crack) Corn. "For a measly 400 grand, the administration will sell us 16 mergers, the Washington Monument and all popcorn rights in the White House. Which isn't peanuts. P.S. Stuff this up or down your shredder."

The subsequent investigation was unfortunately stymied by Ms. Whiskers' rare heart disease, infarcted memocarditis — which meant that every time she heard the word "memo" she had a heart attack.

Actually, domestic affairs were but a small part of IPP's operations. Its main interests lay abroad, as testified to by the company's stirring slogan: "Foreign policy is our most important product!"

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**I**TS BIG CHANCE came when the Republic of Chile con Carne elected a left-wing president, Salvador Upende, who threatened to expropriate IPP's \$150 million worth of popcorn vending machines.

IPP President Corn acted swiftly. He called in the CIA and said: "Here's a million bucks. Kindly foment a military coup in Chile con Carne."

"A military coup?" said the CIA.

"As we say in Latin America," said President Corn, "you can't pop corn without buying the colonels."

The decision went to the White House.

Fortunately, the President firmly believed the private sector could do a better job in wiping out poverty and pollution than the public sector. And why not foreign policy, too? "Don't just ask what the government can do for you," he was fond of saying, "hire it."

So IPP hired the CIA. But to complicate matters, President Upende also planned to expropriate the holdings of the Rattlesnake Copper Co. "Be our guest," said IPP with a shrug.

When word of the double cross got out, Rattlesnake didn't take it lying down. They hired, at great cost, the 73rd Airborne to fight IPP's CIA agents. IPP retaliated by leasing the First Marine Division.

The Pentagon, which had long sold guns, planes and tanks to both sides in Latin America and the Middle East, saw no reason not to rent soldiers to both sides in Chile con Carne, that being our defense posture.

To bolster its image, IPP ran documentaries on the fighting over educational television — each accompanied only by the tasteful message: "This war has been made possible through a grant from the IPP Foundation."

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**T**HE PUBLIC finally rebelled. It wasn't that they didn't like to watch wars on television. It was that they couldn't figure out what the hell was going on or whom to root for.

The President reluctantly removed the conduct of foreign affairs from the private sector and restored it to the State Department. Since then, no one has been confused by our foreign policy. For, as has long been customary, we haven't had any.